

Post 11/16/68
Hannan Critical of War Statement

VATICAN CITY, Nov. 15 (UPI)—American Archbishop Philip M. Hannan today charged the Ecumenical Council's proposed statement on war could be construed as a "slur" on U.S. policies in the defense of freedom.

He urged the Council to adopt an amendment recognizing war as "apt and necessary" for the defense of violated national rights.

The American hierarchy was reported trying to head the Archbishop off in his move to amend the Council statement.

Archbishop Hannan, former auxiliary bishop of Washington who became Archbishop of New Orleans only last month, charged that it was "exaggerated and unrealistic" to say that war is an unreasonable means of restoring one's rights when they have been trampled on.

"Why else are we in Vietnam?" he said in justifying his move to amend the Council's decree on the church in the modern world. The decree

contains anti-war statements which will be voted on later this week.

The Archbishop also drafted an amendment to a section of the decree which asserts that "the possession of modern, scientific arms"—meaning nuclear stockpiling—is "an aggravating cause of war."

"The fact is that a great part of the world has been saved from Red aggression by our possession of nuclear arms," the Archbishop said.

In another development, an estimated 450 conservative Council bishops urged the church to make an outright condemnation of communism. A section of the "modern world" declaration denounces atheistic determinism based on economic grounds, but does not mention communism or Marxism by name.

The conservative group offered an amendment which states that "communism just be rejected not only because it is contaminated with atheism, but also because it has

been declared intrinsically perverse by the teaching authority of the church."

The Council commission that revised the modern world document has refused previous requests that such a specific condemnation be made on the grounds that it would go against the spirit of the Council as conceived by the late Pope John XXIII, which was to avoid condemnations and look instead for the positive in the church's relations with various elements in the world.

The result of the vote on this section will not be announced until Tuesday.